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is being done in Germany and elsewhere, and his practical proposals are too ill-judged to command confidence.

After passing in review the influence exerted upon the growth of population by climate, race, occupation, education, economic conditions, the prevailing family ethics, and the type of family organization, he reaches the negative conclusion that "it is an unprofitable task to express in mathematical form the rate of the increase of population, and that it is entirely illusory to believe that one can draw any conclusions as to the future," from the so-called principle of population, "or rest thereon any practical policy." Absolute and general overpopulation, the author regards as "a picture of phantasy." Local and relative overpopulation—population too great for a given region under the existing economic system—must be relieved by economic progress, and by migration to the comparatively uncultivated parts of the world. Over against the economic danger of overpopulation, the writer sets "the ethnological danger of decrease." "A people which checks its increase, has pronounced its own death sentence; it sacrifices itself for the benefit of its less calculating and cautious neighbors." Similarly, within a given race or community, the propaganda for restricted increase, appealing to the better element of the population, "proclaims a selection of the unfit," and tends toward a deterioration in the average quality of succeeding generations.

The author's practical suggestions favor a radical policy of public encouragement of an increase of population. Among other proposals are the following: Complete recognition of the economic independence of women; removal of legal obstacles to the forming or breaking of marriage; universal, free and equal education for all, without distinction of sex or rank; public establishments for children whose parents are not able to support them; the establishment of public eating halls, laundries, heating and lighting apparatus, etc. Measures such as these would doubtless bring about a struggle for existence intense enough to satisfy the most radical of the ultra selectionists of the Kidd type.

C. C. C.

Die Drohende Physische Entartung der Culturvolker. By W. SCHALLMAYER. Berlin: Heuser's Verlag. Zweite Aufgabe. 8vo. pp. 60.

DR. SCHALLMAYER'S brief essay comprises, (1) An examination of some of the forces of social selection with a view to determining

whether they work toward the improvement or toward the deterioration of the race, and, (2) a practical consideration of means for resisting tendencies toward degeneration.

The attitude of the author is distinctly that of the selectionist school, and his point of view is so very similar to that from which Dr. Haycraft approaches the same problems in his *Darwinism and Race Progress*, that a comparison of the two works is at once suggested. Both writers, though practically concerned in the furtherance of the medical art, see clearly that the progress of medicine and of hygiene, in lessening the selective action of disease, is likely to result in the physical deterioration of the race. "The higher the efficiency of medicine is carried," says Dr. Schallmayer, "the more will following generations stand in need of medicine." "It gives assistance to the individual, but at the cost of the race." "The increased preservation of the sickly," says Haycraft in a similar vein, "has diminished the average robustness of constitution, or innate healthiness of the race, for a larger proportion of sickly ones are living amongst us." Dr. Schallmayer's estimate of present tendencies is, however, rather the more pessimistic, and he is far more confident than Haycraft of the immediate possibility of so controlling the forces of selection as to promote the physical improvement of the race.

The effect of present economic and social conditions on selection, and in particular the influence of wealth and position upon marriage is regarded by both writers as prejudicial. Schallmayer goes so far as to hold that under socialistic conditions, selection would be more favorable to race improvement than under the existing régime. The latter author dwells also upon the evil effects, from the selectionist point of view, of the requirement of military service from the healthier portion of the youth of a nation.

The above influences and others of a similar sort are, in the opinion of the author, bringing about a deterioration in the average physical constitution of highly civilized populations, that must be met by organized direction of the forces of selection toward the increase of the sounder elements in the community and the elimination of the inferior. To this end he advocates a legal restriction of marriage to such persons as can show—on the basis of a proposed system of certificates (*Krankenpasskarte*), and medical statistics—at least a fairly clear individual and family record as regards physical health.

C. C. C.